

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A golf ball retrieval device comprising:
a base adapted to be located on and secured to an upper end of a golf club shaft, wherein there is a shaft aligned to extend along an elongate axis of the base, said shaft supporting an abutment member at a forward end of the shaft so that when not in use this abutment member is positioned at an end distal from the base of the retrieval device;
at least two ~~substantially rigid~~ fingers projecting from the base substantially parallel to an axis running along the length of the club shaft; and
a resilient support being provided at the base adapted to prevent a movement of the fingers in a direction parallel to the said axis while allowing each finger independently from the other finger or fingers to be movable with respect to the base so as to be pivoted about the base such that an end of the respective finger distal from the base will swing outwardly and allow thereby against resilient pressure a spread of the fingers to provide a golf ball capturing space;
wherein there is a spring effecting a bias to urge the shaft with the abutment member into an outward most position relative to the base, such that when the fingers are in a closed position where this is the resting position, the abutment member extends across an area between outer ends of the respective fingers.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) A ~~device in claim 2~~ golf ball retrieval device comprising:

a base adapted to be located on and secured to an upper end of a golf club shaft, at least two fingers projecting from the base substantially parallel to an axis running along the length of the club shaft; and

a resilient support being provided at the base adapted to prevent a movement of the fingers in a direction parallel to the said axis while allowing each finger independently from the other finger or fingers to be movable with respect to the base so as to be pivoted about the base such that an end of the respective finger distal from the base will swing outwardly and allow thereby against resilient pressure a spread of the fingers to provide a golf ball capturing space;

wherein there is a cam member slidably supported by the shaft and resiliently biased into an outwardmost position relative to the base which is inwardly moved relative to the fingers.

5. (Original) A device as in claim 4 wherein there is a helical spring between the said cam and the said base.

6. (Currently amended) The device of claim ~~2~~ 1 wherein there are three fingers symmetrically aligned about the central axis of the body of the golf ball retrieval device.

7. (Currently amended) A putter in combination with a device as in claim ~~2~~ 1.

8. (Original) A putter as in claim 7 wherein the ball-retrieval device has a stern that is embedded in an end of a shaft of the putter.

9. (Original) A golf ball retrieval device having a plurality of resiliently held, substantially rigid fingers which are shaped at their respective ends and aligned relatively one to the other such that when urged against the surface of a golf ball the fingers will be caused to spread against resilient pressure such that it will enable a golf ball to enter and be held.

10. (Currently Amended) A golf ball retrieval device ~~having~~ comprising:
a plurality of ~~substantially rigid~~ ball engaging members, ~~and~~
an end abutment member; and

a base member, the ball engaging members being held in a closely adjacent configuration by resilient means, said resilient means acting to prevent translation of the fingers with respect to the base member, thereby forming an open ended convolute sided cup shape, wherein the end abutment member covers an otherwise open area between the ends of the fingers distal from the base member;

wherein the abutment member is supported by a resilient support, said support being substantially co-axial with a longer axis of the convolute sided cup shape and is adapted to be pressed against a golf ball, whereby the support is deformed and the abutment member moves axially inside the convolute sided cup shape, remaining in contact with the ball, which ball comes into contact with the ball engaging members, which members are adapted to be forced apart by the force transmitted by the ball allowing the ball to move in between them, said members being urged to grip the ball by the resilient means;

the abutment member and the ball engaging members co-operating such that as the abutment member moves axially inside the convolute sided cup shape, the ball engaging members are forced further apart by the movement of the abutment member, allowing the ball to move completely between the ball engaging members, wherein the ball is held in place by the resilient means urging the ball engaging members against the ball, and by the resilient support

urging the abutment member against the ball, further urging the ball against the ball engaging members.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (New) The device of claim 10 wherein there are three fingers symmetrically aligned about the central axis of the body of the golf ball retrieval device.

15. (New) A putter in combination with a device as in claim 10.